

California Biodiversity Council Watershed Work Group:

BEST FUNDING PRACTICES FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT:

Summary of Issues and Recommendations

Note: The following recommendations are subject to further refinement and prioritization

BFP #1 Streamline the Application and Project Selection Process

- Within 5 years, develop a common pre-proposal to be used by major funding programs.
- Incorporate common requirements for monitoring, evaluation, and data base entry into Requests for Proposals or other funding documents.
- Each separate funding program should develop a checklist to assist applicants in targeting appropriate sources of funding.
- Coordinate funding schedules and cycles to be mindful of matching opportunities.

BFP #2 Administer Funds More Efficiently

- Agencies should examine internal procedures to release funds in a more timely manner and/or provide up front costs where possible.
- Assist applicants in planning timing of grant to correspond to limited field season.
- Provide sufficient but not excessive administrative and management support for grants
- Assist recipients in developing good project management and administrative skills. Encourage small applicants to pool administrative resources.

BFP #3 Improve Reporting and Accountability

- Develop a common statewide project database using NRPI as a model
- Develop common standard performance measures for watershed projects

BFP #4 Provide Technical Assistance and Outreach

- Host collaborative, regional workshops to explain programs.
- Provide inter-agency collaborative technical training to encourage high quality projects.
- Increase the number of agency field staff available to assist with watershed programs.

BFP #5 Address Regional and Economic Differences

- Ensure that there is sufficient staff to assist in all regions of the state.
- Include local and/or regional review as a primary step in making funding decisions.

BFP #6 Ensure Funding Decisions are Based on Sound Science

- Require technical review of applications. Ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

BFP #7 Leverage Multiple Funding Sources

- Leverage private funds through public-private partnerships.

BFP #8 Educate Policy Makers

- Produce an interagency succinct public relations document highlighting watershed concepts and success stories.
- Conduct public forums and meetings targeting policy makers.
- Each program should document successful case studies

BFP #9 Fill Funding Gaps

- Seek additional funds for identified gaps including funds for watershed coordinators, project monitoring, and watershed planning.